

CLAIMS

1 1. A method for processing a document including a field
2 containing information in a predefined domain, the method
3 comprising:

4 defining a directory of data relating to the
5 predefined domain;

6 receiving from a client via a computer network an
7 image of the field containing the information;

8 processing the image to code the information; and

9 looking up the coded information in the directory so
10 as to check whether the information is coded correctly.

1 2. A method according to claim 1, and comprising
2 returning the checked, coded information over the network
3 to the client.

1 3. A method according to claim 2, wherein receiving the
2 image of the field comprises receiving a number of fields
3 filled in with respective information, regarding which
4 the checked, coded information is returned to the client,
5 and comprising receiving payment from the client
6 according to the number of the fields.

1 4. A method according to claim 1, wherein defining the
2 directory comprises selecting data specific to the
3 predefined domain from one or more general databases.

1 5. A method according to claim 1, wherein receiving the
2 image comprises receiving an image of alphanumeric
3 characters in the field.

1 6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the document
2 includes a template delineating the field, and wherein
3 receiving the image of the characters comprises receiving
4 the image of the characters filled into the field and

5 remaining after drop-out of the template from the image
6 of the field.

1 7. A method according to claim 5, wherein processing
2 the image comprises applying computerized optical
3 character recognition (OCR) to code the characters.

1 8. A method according to claim 7, wherein looking up
2 the coded information comprises selecting a preferred
3 reading of the characters from among two or more possible
4 readings generated by the OCR, responsive to the data in
5 the directory.

1 9. A method according to claim 7, wherein looking up
2 the coded information comprises generating a confidence
3 score, and wherein processing the image comprises passing
4 the image to a human operator for coding when the
5 confidence score is below a predetermined threshold.

1 10. A method according to claim 7, wherein looking up
2 the coded information comprises detecting an error in the
3 coded characters and correcting the error using the data
4 in the directory.

1 11. A method according to claim 1, wherein looking up
2 the coded information comprises detecting an error in the
3 coded information and correcting the error using the data
4 in the directory.

1 12. A method for processing forms, each form including a
2 field that is filled in with information in a predefined
3 domain, the method comprising:

4 defining a directory of data relating to the
5 predefined domain by selecting data specific to the
6 domain from one or more general databases;

1 18. A method according to claim 16, wherein checking
2 whether the information is correct comprises detecting an
3 error in the information, and comprising correcting the
4 error using the data in the directory.

1 19. Apparatus for processing a document including a
2 field containing information in a predefined domain, the
3 apparatus comprising:

4 a memory, in which a directory of data relating to
5 the predefined domain is stored; and

6 a directory service processor, adapted to receive
7 from a client via a computer network an image of the
8 field containing the information, to process the image to
9 code the information, and to look up the coded
10 information in the directory so as to check whether the
11 information is coded correctly.

1 20. Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the
2 processor is adapted to return the checked, coded
3 information over the network to the client.

1 21. Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the
2 processor is adapted to receive a number of fields filled
3 in with respective information, regarding which it is to
4 return the checked, coded information, and to receive
5 payment from the client according to the number of the
6 fields.

1 22. Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the
2 directory comprises data specific to the predefined
3 domain, which are selected from one or more general
4 databases.

1 23. Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the image
2 comprises alphanumeric characters filled into the field.

1 24. Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the
2 document includes a template delineating the field, and
3 wherein the characters in the image comprise the
4 characters remaining after drop-out of the template from
5 the image of the field.

4 a memory, in which a directory of data relating to
5 the predefined domain is stored by selecting data
6 specific to the domain from one or more general
7 databases; and

8 a processor, adapted to receive from a client via a
9 computer network the information that is filled into the
10 field on the forms by a plurality of users in
11 communication with the client, and to check whether the
12 information is correct by looking up the information in
13 the directory.

1 31. Apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the
2 processor is adapted to receive coded information, and to
3 check that the information is coded correctly.

1 32. Apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the
2 processor is adapted to receive an image of the field and
3 to process the image to code the information, wherein the
4 processor is adapted to check whether the information was
5 coded correctly by looking up the coded information in
6 the directory.

1 33. Apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the
2 processor is adapted to return the checked information
3 over the network to the client.

1 34. Apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the
2 processor is adapted to detect an error in the
3 information, and to correct the error using the data in
4 the directory.

1 35. A computer software product for processing a
2 document including a field that contains information in a
3 predefined domain, the product comprising a
4 computer-readable medium in which program instructions

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5 are stored, which instructions, when read by a computer,
6 cause the computer to receive a definition of a directory
7 of data relating to the predefined domain and, upon
8 receiving from a client via a computer network an image
9 of the field containing the information, to process the
10 image so as to code the information and to look up the
11 coded information in the directory so as to check whether
12 the information is coded correctly.

1 36. A product according to claim 35, wherein the image
2 comprises alphanumeric characters filled into the field,
3 and wherein the instructions cause the computer to apply
4 optical character recognition (OCR) to code the
5 characters.

1 37. A computer software product for processing forms,
2 each form including a field that is filled in with
3 information in a predefined domain, the product
4 comprising a computer-readable medium in which program
5 instructions are stored, which instructions, when read by
6 a computer, cause the computer to receive a definition of
7 a directory of data relating to the predefined domain
8 generated by selecting data specific to the domain from
9 one or more general databases, and upon receiving from a
10 client via a computer network the information that is
11 filled into the field on the forms by a plurality of
12 users in communication with the client, to check whether
13 the information is correct by looking up the information
14 in the directory.

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